



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**Draft MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Capitol Plaza Hotel
Jefferson City, Missouri
March 3, 2020**

President

RYAN BRITT
NACD Board Member
11764 Hwy 3
Clifton Hill, MO 65244
(660) 676-4898
ryan.britt@farms@gmail.com

1st Vice President

RON WILLIS
NACD Alternate
23127 Hwy 48
King City, MO 64463
(816) 383-3875
ronandnancywillis@gmail.com

2nd Vice-President

KENNY SPOOLER
1788 Co Rd 347
Jackson, MO 63755
(573) 270-4145
lawbuf@aol.com

3rd Vice-President

DAVID MORRIS
3454 Highway A
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 646-9397
davidm@qrm.net

AREA DIRECTORS

Area I

RON WILLIS
NACD Alternate
23127 Hwy 48
King City, MO 64463
(816) 383-3875
ronandnancywillis@gmail.com

Area II

DAVID MORRIS
3454 Highway A
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 646-9397
davidm@qrm.net

Area III

SCOT SHIVELY
4067 Shelby 357
Shelbyville, MO 63469
(660) 651-8552
shivelyscot@gmail.com

Area IV

BEVERLY DOMETRORCH
2670 Highway 240
Fayette, MO 65248
(660) 248-2645
(573) 864-5697

Area V

MIKE HAEFFNER
1320 Highway 100
Morrison, MO 65061
(573) 294-0016
mhaeffner@outlook.com

Area VI

KATHRYN BRADEN
4210 Blair Ridge Road
Bradleyville, MO 65614
(417) 335-0671
SWMOKATHRYN@aol.com

Area VII

DAVID HUTSELL
4536 Indian Grove Road
Hartsville, MO 65667
(417) 464-3135
d.hutsell@yahoo.com

Area VIII

KENNY SPOOLER
1788 Co Rd 347
Jackson, MO 63755
(573) 270-4145
lawbuf@aol.com

Executive Director

PEGGY LEMONS
1209 Biscayne Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 893-5188 or (573) 353-1417
peggy@maswcd.net

Past President

KENNY LOVELACE
2605 County Road 325
Palmyra, MO 63461
(573) 822-2545
kennyl@centurytel.net

Treasurer

HENRY HEINZE
22998 County Road 357
Williamstown, MO 63473
(660) 988-3901
hjh@marktwin.net

Present

Ryan Britt, President
Kenny Lovelace, Past President
Ron Willis, Area I
Steve Radcliff, Area II Alternate
Scot Shively, Area III
Mike Haeffner, Area V
Kathryn Braden, Area VI
David Hutsell, Area VII
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Henry Heinze, Area III Alt/Treasurer
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Grover DePriest, NRCS Acting State Cons.
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water Program
Melissa White, District Employees Assn.
Sandy Stratman, Maries SWCD
Harold Lampe, Area VI Alternate
Gary Bonacker, Jefferson SWCD
Cyndi Rousan, Jefferson SWCD

Not Present

David Morris, Area II
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV

President Ryan Britt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with a quorum established.

The minutes from the 12-1-19 meeting were presented for approval. Steve Radcliff made a motion to approve the minutes, Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The financial report for the accounts in Jefferson City was reviewed. Henry Heinze stated the balance in his account is \$75,500. He also distributed a list to the Area Directors of which districts have paid dues so far this year. Ron Willis made a motion to accept the treasurer report and file it for audit. Scot Shively seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

MDC Report: No report.

NRCS Report: Grover DePriest, acting state Conservationist, stated the EQIP sign-up deadline is March 3. There is a general CRP sign-up that just closed. Expiring CSP contracts can be renewed through March 20 for a 5-year contract. NRCS will offer a targeted second CSP-GCI sign-up with an application deadline of March 6, 2020. NRCS will be providing the technical assistance to FSA for the ECP

program in areas approved due to tornados or flooding. They requested approximately \$100 million for EQP flood plain easements, received about \$9 million so far. He stated that it appears the landowners are accepting the idea of flood plain easements better now than in the past. Work is progressing on the watershed structures. NRCS estimates about 2/3 of their staff will be eligible for retirement in the next 3 years. They currently have 39 positions open which will bring the total employee number in Missouri up to 330 from the current 320.

Commission Report: Kenny Lovelace stated the next Commission meeting will be April 1 in the southwest part of the state. Colleen Meredith stated there have been quite a few staffing changes in the Program Office. A new coordinator was hired for the southwest part of the state, another coordinator will be hired in the southeast as well. They have finished interviews for the info-ed position. Colleen Meredith announced she will be retiring April 17. She stated the internal audit staff wants more follow up on audit findings so the coordinators will follow up with districts approximately 1 year after their audit to see how the audit findings have been addressed. She also stated the coordinators are helping the boards understand the new policy for the landowner privacy issue. Harold Lampe asked about the election rules. She stated the committee will meet later this month to discuss the survey results on the elections. After the red-tape reduction the state did a couple of years ago, the election rules are now part of Commission policy and not rules so it is easier to make needed changes. They are looking at having all elections at the same time of the year. They are also looking at additional ways for landowners to vote. Once the committee has recommendations they will be presented to the commission for discussion. Ryan passed on a couple of questions Beverly had received from districts in her area. Can districts do drug testing for potential employees, and if so can that be paid for from state funds. Colleen Meredith answered she felt it could be paid from administrative funds and would be a choice of a district board if they wanted to do drug testing or not. The other question was how to handle gathering financial information for an audit which crosses back to the old accounting system which districts no longer have access to. She replied that the Program Office can help with getting the information that may be needed.

Farm Bureau: No report.

Employees Association: Melissa White stated the employee board will meet tomorrow and will be electing officers. They will also be looking at scholarship applications and reviewing information from the Training Conference. She has heard concerns from employees about the new Conservation Desktop, especially concerning getting maps to the Program Office for cost-share approvals. She asked if it was possible for DNR coordinators to obtain lincpass cards and get access to Conservation Desktop through Citrix for cost-share eligibility approvals. Comments have expressed the concern that using ArcMap and Conservation Desktop creates extra work and takes extra time. She asked how much was left in the technical funds grant and what will happen if the funds are not spent by the end of June. Colleen Meredith replied that they don't know for sure about the end of June, they are discussing with NRCS whether those funds could be extended another year. There are several districts that have not yet spent the funding. Melissa also mentioned the concern by some employees on the lack of involvement in the grazing schools by qualified district personnel for instructing.

Budget Committee: No report.

Bylaws Committee: No report.

Strategic Planning Committee: The committee met earlier today and discussed the evaluations from the Training Conference. They are developing suggestions for improvements to the Live Auction and the flow of the conference. There did seem to be a lot of positive comments this past year due to the changes put in place last year. Having no quorum at the business meeting is a big issue that needs to be addressed. It was suggested to not hold any other workshops during that time and also maybe change the name to Association meeting instead of business meeting. Maybe color code the name tags so it is easier to recognize guests for the meals. Also maybe put the Area number on the name tags. It appears a lot of people do not know which Area they are in. The seating at the Tuesday lunch was very tight. The committee discussed moving the Employee Association meeting from Salon B to the Parasol I/II room so the lunch could use both Salon B & C for more room. This would also necessitate moving the speech contest to one of the 70's rooms. Some workshop topic suggestions include more workshops on grazing and livestock management. Maybe reach out to forage conferences for workshop topics and potential trade show vendors. The tours have gone over well however last year the tours overlapped with the guest program. They suggest continuing with the tour of the cave and add a tour of a distillery or winery. For the guest program it was suggested Charcuterie, how to set up a cheese board. They had several ideas on how to add to the Live Auction. A new auctioneer will be needed this year as the one we have been using is no longer on his district board. It was also suggested to have more Legislator involvement and maybe invite the Governor to be a speaker.

Old Business:

The Board reviewed the information presented by the Strategic Planning Committee and discussed a Legislator award to be given at the conference. A motion was made by Kenny Lovelace, seconded by Steve Radcliff to recognize a current and past legislator at the conference. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Ron Willis stated that he felt the new board member training at the conference has been very good and would like to see it continued. Those that attended the NACD National Meeting (Ryan Britt, Ron Willis, Mike Haeffner, David Hutsell, Sandy Stratman and Andrea McKeown) briefly discussed what they attended at the meeting. Ryan stated he was mostly involved in leadership meetings and while he was in those meetings, Ron Willis attended the NACD Board meetings.

New Business:

The STAR agreement was discussed by the board. Ryan Britt explained it connects the processor of commodities with the landowner and basically is a market incentive to do conservation practices. The landowner receives certification as a 1-5 level star producer of products that the processors can market as organically or sustainably grown and part of the profit is shared back to the landowner. There is still much to be worked out about how the process will work. A Steering Committee and a Scientific Research Committee needs to be organized to develop the certification process and the rules on how this program would work. The districts would most likely be involved in the certification of the landowners.

Area Reports: None

Correspondence: A letter from Women in Ag asking for support for the 2020 state conference was reviewed. Scot Shively made a motion to support the Women in Ag conference with \$250. Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Other Business: The plans for the rest of the day's training and evening reception were discussed.

The next meeting date will be mid-June. Motion for adjournment made by Mike Haeffner, seconded by Scot Shively. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Ryan Britt, President